

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 01504 201251 Z

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01 T-03 OMB-01

AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 MC-02 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00

DODE-00 RSR-01 /104 W

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R 201205 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6847

INFO USSOUTHCOM

COMUSMILGP RIT DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1504

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL FMS TO BRAZILIAN ARMY

1. ON 9 FEB I AUTHORIZED COMUSMILGP TO DISPATCH THE
FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO USCINCSO:

QTE

1. THERE ARE STRONG INDICATIONS HERE THAT THE
BRAZILIAN ARMY HAS ASSIGNED VERY HIGH PRIORITY TO THE
EARLY ACQUISITION OF AIR DEFENSE MISSILES. RELIABLE
CONTACTS INVOLVED IN STUDIES FOR THE ARMY MINISTER,
INCLUDING BRIG. GENERAL AGOSTINI, DIRECTOR OF BRAZILIAN
ARMY MUNITIONS DEPT., POINT TO THE LIKELIHOOD OF A
RECOMMENDATION IN FAVOR OF THE CHAPARRAL- VULCAN
SYSTEM. PRESSURES FROM EUROPEAN SOURCES, ESPECIALLY
THE FRENCH, REMAIN STRONG, HOWEVER.

2. ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE U. S. MAY SOON BE
CONSULTED CONCERNING THE SALE OF THE CHAPARRAL- VULCAN,
RECOMMEND THAT A POLICY DETERMINATION BE MADE NOW
AS A BASIS FOR EVENTUAL REPLY.

3. THE AMBASSADOR CONCURS IN THE FOREGOING RECOM-
MENDATION AND SHARES MY HOPE THAT WE WILL BE IN POSITION
TO RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY TO ANY REQUEST FOR THIS TYPE
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PAGE 02 BRASIL 01504 201251 Z

OF WEAPON. IT IS OUR JUDGMENT THAT THE U. S. SHOULD TAKE ALL PRACTICABLE STEPS TO RETAIN ITS CURRENT DOMINANT INFLUENCE IN TERMS OF BRAZILIAN ARMY ARTILLERY WEAPONRY. UNQTE.

2. COMUSMILGP ADVISES ME THAT HIS OFFICERS CONTINUE TO RECEIVE EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FROM THEIR BRAZILIAN ARMY COUNTERPARTS. THE ARMY SECTION OF THE MILGP HAS SUPPLIED THE BRAZILIAN ARMY WITH UNCLASSIFIED DATA ON THE VULCAN

CHAPARRAL AND HAS REQUESTED AUTHORITY FROM DOD FOR THE RELEASE OF CERTAIN CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. IT IS

ANTICIPATED THAT THE LOGICAL NEXT STEP WILL BE A REQUEST FOR AN INDICATION OF AVAILABILITY AND PRICE.

3. AS STATED IN THE MESSAGE FROM COMUSMILGP TO USCINCSO, WE BELIEVE THAT OUR ULTIMATE COMPETITIVE POSITION WILL BE ENHANCED IF WE CAN CONVEY THE IMPRESSION OF RESPONSIVENESS. I AM OF THE OPINION THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF MILGP PERSONNEL COULD BE AUTHORIZED TO INFORM THEIR COUNTERPARTS, ON AN INFORMAL BASIS, OF WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE THE AVAILABILITY OF THE VULCAN- CHAPARRAL. AT THIS STAGE, AND AT THE LEVEL OF MILGP LIAISON OFFICER CONTACTS, I DO NOT THINK THAT PRICING INFORMATION IS A CURRENT PRESSING REQUIREMENT.

4. REQUEST AN INDICATION OF VULCAN- CHAPARRAL AVAILABILITY AND OF THE LATITUDE WHICH MIGHT BE ASSIGNED TO THE MILGP IN DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH BRAZILIAN ARMY OFFICERS INVOLVED IN CONSIDERING MATERIEL REQUIREMENTS.
ROUNTREE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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